

Handling of General Election Crimes in the Framework of Realizing Democratic and Responsible General Elections

Muhammad Sarkani^{1*}, Ridwan¹, Mada Apriandi¹, Henny Yuningsih¹

¹Universitas Sriwijaya, Palembang, Indonesia

*Corresponding Author Email: muhammadsarkani1212@gmail.com

Abstract

This study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of the Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu) in handling election crimes, focusing on supervision mechanisms, policy implementation, and law enforcement outcomes. A descriptive qualitative method was used, with data collected through literature reviews on election regulations, Bawaslu reports, and relevant previous studies. The analysis assessed Bawaslu's performance based on supervision quality, coordination with the Integrated Law Enforcement Center (Gakkumdu), law enforcement effectiveness, and obstacles encountered. The findings indicate that Bawaslu's effectiveness relies on clear reporting procedures, responsiveness in handling reports, and investigative objectivity. Coordination with Gakkumdu plays a crucial role in ensuring transparent and efficient law enforcement, contributing to a decrease in election violations. However, challenges such as limited resources and weak regulations hinder optimal performance. This study highlights the need for capacity building, regulatory improvements, and stronger institutional synergy to enhance election crime handling.

Keywords: Bawaslu, election crimes, effectiveness, Gakkumdu, law enforcement, supervision.

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengevaluasi efektivitas Badan Pengawas Pemilu (Bawaslu) dalam menangani tindak pidana pemilu, dengan fokus pada mekanisme pengawasan, implementasi kebijakan, dan hasil penegakan hukum. Metode yang digunakan adalah deskriptif kualitatif, dengan data yang dikumpulkan melalui studi pustaka mengenai regulasi pemilu, laporan Bawaslu, dan penelitian terdahulu yang relevan. Analisis dilakukan dengan menilai kinerja Bawaslu berdasarkan kualitas pengawasan, koordinasi dengan Sentra Penegakan Hukum Terpadu (Gakkumdu), efektivitas penegakan hukum, serta kendala yang dihadapi. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa efektivitas Bawaslu bergantung pada kejelasan prosedur pelaporan, ketanggapan dalam menangani laporan, dan objektivitas investigasi. Koordinasi dengan Gakkumdu menjadi faktor kunci dalam memastikan penegakan hukum yang transparan dan efisien, yang berdampak pada penurunan jumlah pelanggaran pemilu. Namun, tantangan seperti keterbatasan sumber daya dan lemahnya regulasi masih menjadi kendala utama dalam mengoptimalkan kinerja Bawaslu. Penelitian ini menyoroti perlunya penguatan kapasitas, perbaikan regulasi, dan sinergi kelembagaan yang lebih kuat untuk meningkatkan penanganan tindak pidana pemilu.

Kata Kunci: Bawaslu, efektivitas, Gakkumdu, penegakan hukum, pengawasan, tindak pidana pemilu.

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is a country based on law based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution, as stated in Article 1 paragraph (3) of the 1945 Constitution: "The State of Indonesia is a country based on law that

* Copyright (c) 2025 **Muhammad Sarkani et.al**

This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/).

Received: April 7, 2024; Revised: November 14, 2024; Accepted: December 31, 2024

aims to realize a peaceful, safe, orderly, prosperous and just national life." As a country based on law, every policy and behavior of state apparatus and citizens must be based on law. Indonesia's legal state is inseparable from the principle of democracy, where state power is limited by laws made based on the sovereignty of the people. Democracy demands the presence of political parties as intermediaries for the people's aspirations in elections. Elections themselves are the main means in democracy to determine the people's representatives who will sit in representative institutions, clean, honest and fair elections reflect the quality of a country's democracy (Yeni, 2020).

Although Indonesia has had election regulations since the beginning, their implementation has not always gone smoothly. Various election violations continue to occur, both those that affect election results (outcome determinative fraud) and those that do not (non-outcome determinative fraud), as stated by Lopez-Pintor in (Fikri, 2024). Political competition in elections often triggers fraudulent actions to seize strategic positions in order to access political and economic resources. The enforcement of election laws plays a crucial role, as demonstrated in the 2019 Election. Law No. 7 of 2017 outlines the procedures for addressing election-related crimes, including the formation of Sentra Gakkumdu as a unified law enforcement body. There are still many violations in the election process, especially in campaigns, carried out by individuals and political parties for unhealthy political interests. Serious efforts are needed to enforce election law, including the application of sanctions for campaign violations to strengthen democracy.

Election crimes in the 2019 Election involved various legal subjects. Of the 77 cases, 22 were communal crimes that could be committed by anyone, while the other 55 involved election organizers, from KPPS to the Head of the KPU. According to Topo Santoso, election crimes are divided into three categories: those regulated in the Election Law, which are also regulated in other regulations such as the Political Party Law or the Criminal Code, and crimes that occur during the election, such as violence or destruction. Election crimes have special characteristics with specific rules and sanctions in the Election Law. Violations occur at various stages, including the campaign and vote counting, with modes such as vote buying, administrative manipulation, and misuse of campaign funds. Sanctions in Law No. 7 of 2017 include imprisonment to fines of hundreds of millions of rupiah, depending on the type of violation (Nugraha, 2023; Wicitra et al., 2024). Enforcement of election law is still a challenge in realizing democratic and transparent elections. Strengthening the handling mechanism, especially optimizing the role of the Gakkumdu Center, is needed to maintain the integrity of the election.

Although Law No. 7 of 2017 on General Elections clearly defines election crimes, their severity, and enforcement mechanisms, concerns about the effectiveness of law enforcement in the 2019 Election should not have arisen. With at least 116 reported election crime cases progressing to investigation, prosecution, and court rulings, it is evident that enforcement remains ineffective despite coordination efforts within Sentra Gakkumdu. The law prescribes penalties ranging from a minimum of one year in prison and a fine of IDR 12,000,000 to a maximum of three years in prison and a fine of IDR 240,000,000. The number of alleged election crime cases in the 2019 Election is a major concern in evaluating the effectiveness of supervision and law enforcement carried out by Bawaslu. Data from the Indonesian National Police illustrates the distribution of cases handled during the period, as shown in Figure 1:

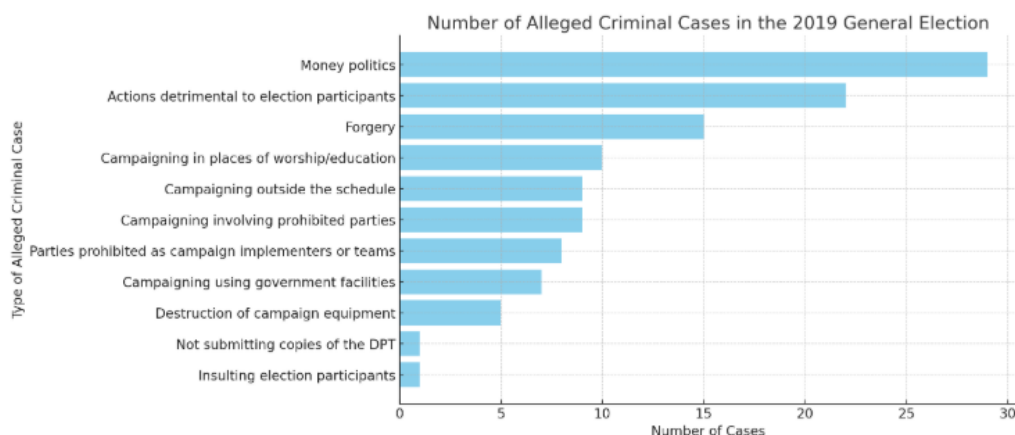


Figure 1. Number of Alleged Criminal Cases in the 2019 General Election

Source: Indonesian Republic Police Data 2019

As shown in Figure 1, the data indicates that several cases of election crimes cannot proceed to the legal process, such as campaigning using government facilities (7 cases), destruction of campaign equipment (5 cases), and not submitting a copy of the DPT to political parties (1 case). This is because Bawaslu has the authority to determine whether a case is worthy of being investigated. In addition, an election crime can only be processed further if it meets the elements of the crime that have been determined. The Gakkumdu Polri Task Force noted a decrease in reports of alleged election crimes in 2024 compared to the previous election. In 2019, there were 849 reports, with 367 cases forwarded to the police and 482 stopped. Meanwhile, in 2024, the number of reports decreased to 322 cases.

The main difference between the 2019 and 2024 elections is the absence of factual verification for parliamentary parties in 2024. One of the fundamental problems in verification is the use of political party members' names, which can be detrimental to the public, especially job seekers who must meet the requirements of being free from party membership for several positions, such as members of the election ad hoc body, TNI, CPNS/PNS, and employees of certain companies. The integrity of election organizers is very important in the verification process of political parties by the KPU and Bawaslu. Verification must include management, office domicile, and membership fairly for all parties, both large and small. Sipol should only be an administrative tool, without ignoring manual files from parties. The KPU also needs to improve the security of election data and ensure the transparency of membership data so that the public can provide feedback in the verification process (Nugroho, 2016; Wahyudi, 2022).

The General Election Commission (KPU) has finalized the Permanent Voter List (DPT) for the 2024 Election, totaling 204,807,222 voters, through an Open Plenary Meeting. This decision is intended to uphold the principles of direct, general, free, secret, honest, and fair elections (Bahasa: *luberjurdil*). There have been various violations that have occurred in practice, often threatening the fairness and integrity of the election, which can ultimately damage public trust in the democratic system.

Many people are unaware that actions they consider normal can be categorized as election crimes that carry the threat of strict sanctions. The government has shown its seriousness in enforcing election law by establishing the Integrated Law Enforcement Center (Gakkumdu), which consists of Bawaslu, the Police, and the Prosecutor's Office. However, law enforcement against election violations is often not optimal, with only a few cases being processed legally, especially if they have become public attention, this condition gives the impression of disparity or even discrimination in the enforcement of election law (Ferdyanto et al., 2023).

Elections are basically within the realm of constitutional law, but their mechanisms and implementation also involve criminal law as a sanction to strengthen administrative norms. A comparison of the electoral systems in Indonesia and England shows significant differences in the election mechanism. England applies a simpler district system (Plurality and Majority System) with the dominance of two main parties, while Indonesia uses a proportional system that better reflects the diversity of society but tends to produce many political parties in representative institutions.

The complexity of election law not only includes criminal acts, but also various other aspects, such as violations of the code of ethics of election organizers, administrative disputes, and disputes over election results. Based on previous experience, the classification of election crimes into "minor crimes" and "ordinary crimes" is considered more effective than the classification in Law No. 8 of 2012. This allows for a more efficient handling mechanism, where minor crimes can be handled more quickly without having to go through a long bureaucracy, while ordinary crimes still follow stricter procedures with certain time limits. This approach aims to enhance the effectiveness of election law enforcement, ensuring more democratic and accountable elections. The following outlines the process for handling election crimes, as stipulated in the General Election Supervisory Body Regulation No. 3 of 2023 regarding the Election Gakkumdu Center:

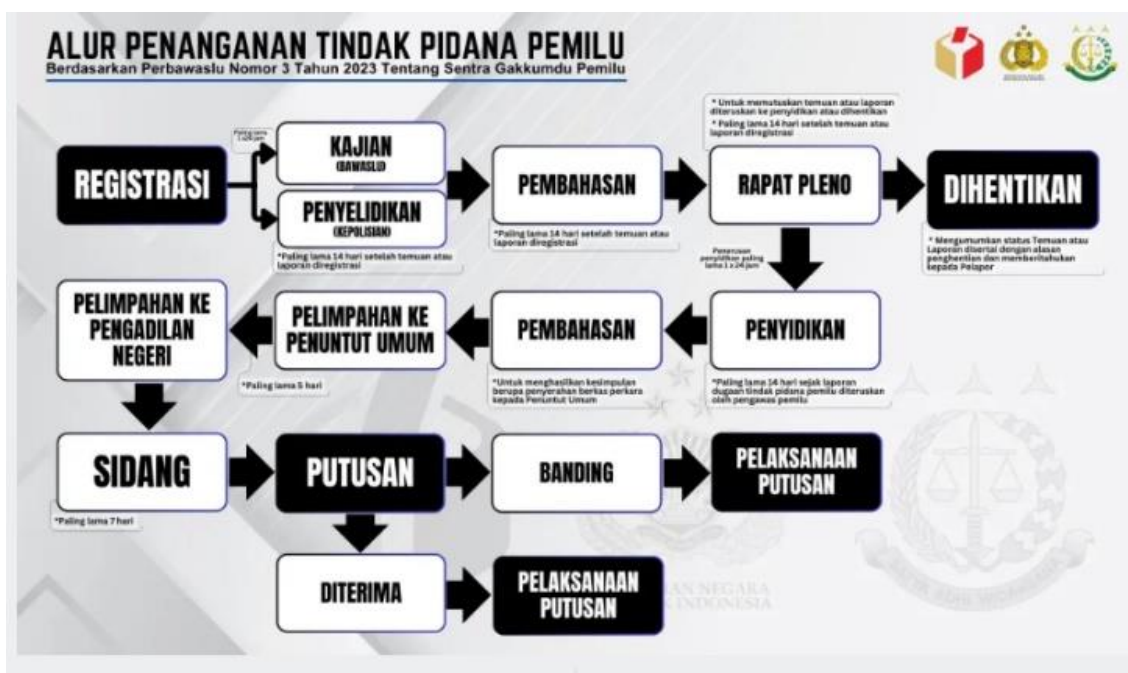


Figure 2. Flow or Process of Election Action Handling Events

Source: Regulation of the General Election Supervisory Body Number 3 of 2023 Concerning the Election Gakkumdu Center

Figure 3 show that the KPU determined the Permanent Voters List (DPT) for the 2024 Election as many as 204,807,222 voters in an Open Plenary Meeting. The principle of free and fair elections is important to maintain integrity, but the practice is often marred by violations that threaten justice. Many people are not yet aware that election violations can be criminal acts with strict sanctions. Law No. 7 of 2017 established the Gakkumdu Center to enforce election law through Bawaslu, the Police, and the Prosecutor's Office, but only a few violations were processed, especially those that attracted public attention. Indonesia's proportional system allows for diversity of representatives but produces many

parties, unlike the UK which uses a district system with two main parties for government stability. Election law in Indonesia is complex, involving many institutions and six types of violations according to Law No. 8 of 2012, such as code of ethics, administrative, disputes, and criminal offenses. Ideally, election crimes are classified as "minor" and "ordinary" to be more effective in handling them.

Election law enforcement is considered ineffective due to long bureaucracy and limited time. Investigations and prosecutions should be coordinated to speed up the process. Law No. 7 of 2017 has weaknesses in the mechanism for handling violations, such as the limited authority of Bawaslu which only forwards reports without the authority to investigate. The absence of legal consequences if the handling deadline is exceeded also hampers the effectiveness of election law. Bawaslu has the authority to receive reports, examine violations, and recommend dispute resolution, but the power to execute its recommendations is weaker than the final and binding adjudication decision. Election law also applies to regional elections, which are often marred by fraud from various parties. The legal basis for elections and regional elections is different, but the handling is similar, involving the Gakkumdu Center. To improve the enforcement of election law, policy redesign is needed, including changes to several articles in Law No. 7 of 2017 and optimizing the role of the Gakkumdu Center by giving greater authority to Bawaslu. Enforcement of election criminal law must be part of social policy to create order. One of the main weaknesses is the lower bargaining position of Bawaslu compared to the police and prosecutors in discussing cases in Gakkumdu. The short investigation time also has an impact on the lack of evidence, many election criminal cases do not reach the courts.

The Constitutional Court's decision strengthens the implementation of simultaneous elections to ensure efficiency and integration in the election of legislative and executive members. (Lubis, 2021; Lubis et al., 2023)' research revealed that the regulations in the current Election Law do not yet regulate the criminal liability of political parties in the practice of money politics. The weaknesses of this regulation include the unclear provisions of the Indefinite Sentence, the limited element of *tempus delicti*, and the absence of sanctions for political parties. Reconstruction is proposed in Article 523 Paragraph 3 with the addition of Paragraph 4 which provides a sanction of prohibition from participating in elections for political parties proven to be involved in the practice of money politics.

(AR Zulfakar, 2023) highlighted that Law No. 7 of 2017 has not fully fulfilled the principles of honest and fair elections. Criminal sanctions that are too light and the limited number of officers in the Gakkumdu Center hinder effective law enforcement. The proposed solution is to increase the threat of criminal penalties, adjust sanctions to the level of error, and improve legal procedures to be faster and more effective. (Musakkir, 2022) emphasized that the regulation of regional election law must be based on the principles of Honesty and Fairness (*Jurdil*) and Direct, General, Free, and Secret (*Luber*). The implementation of the current regulations is still weak due to the inconsistency of legal interpretation by law enforcers. Reformulation is needed, especially by eliminating the phrase "benefiting/disadvantageous to one of the candidates" in Article 71 of the Regional Election Law to avoid multiple interpretations. Based on these various studies, the author is interested in researching more deeply the role of Bawaslu in handling election crimes in order to realize democratic and responsible elections.

Democracy is practiced differently in different countries, but is generally considered to be the ideal system of government. This concept emphasizes that state power comes from the people, so that the people have a primary role in determining the direction of government. Joseph A. Schmitter in (Muabezi, 2017) defines democracy as an institutional plan to reach political decisions through competition for the people's votes. Philippe C. Schmitter and Terry Lynn Karl in (Zefrizal, 2022) see democracy as a system of government in which the government is accountable to citizens through competition and cooperation of

elected representatives. (Muslihannisa et al., 2023) adds that democracy allows public policy to be determined based on majority votes in periodic elections, with guarantees of political freedom. Affan Gafar distinguishes democracy into two forms, namely normative democracy as an ideal concept and empirical democracy as a practice in politics.

Democracy develops in four stages as stated by Boron. First, electoral democracy, which is characterized by regular elections and competition between parties to gain voters' votes. Second, political democracy, which includes the formation of effective political representation, the division of power, increasing popular participation, and transparency in government. Third, social democracy, which emphasizes the guarantee of citizens' social rights, such as access to education, health, and a decent standard of living. Fourth, economic democracy, which focuses on control of economic resources, where those who control the economy also have control over politics, these stages show that democracy is not only about elections, but also includes social and economic aspects in national life (Lianingsih et al., 2024; Nadzir, 2024).

The theory of the rule of law basically asserts that law has the highest position (supreme) in a country. All actions of the government or state authority must be subject to the law (subject to the law). This concept was first introduced by Plato and later developed by Aristotle, who stated that an ideal state is a state whose implementation of power is based on law (nomoi) (Faizal, 2023). R. Soepomo in (Sultan et al., 2022) defines a state of law as a state subject to law, where all state bodies and apparatuses are bound by laws and regulations. This ensures the existence of legal order and a reciprocal relationship between law and power. Arief Sidharta added that a state of law must be based on normative principles that serve as guidelines for governance and the behavior of state officials.

Satjipto Rahardjo in (Hermawan, 2021) sees the concept of a state of law as a response to absolutism that gave birth to a state of power. This concept is considered revolutionary because it replaces the authoritarian system of government that places the ruler as the center of absolute power (L'etat c'est moi). M. Tahir Azhary in (Rahmat & Fathanudien, 2021) identified five concepts of the rule of law, namely: 1) Islamic Nomocracy State implemented in Islamic countries; 2) Continental European Legal State or "Rechtsstaat"; 3) State with the concept of "Rule of Law" that applies in Anglo-Saxon countries; 4) Socialist Legal State implemented in communist countries; and 5) Pancasila Legal State Concept.

The effectiveness of the law is highly dependent on these three components. If law enforcement officers have low credibility, then even though the rule of law is good, its enforcement will still be problematic. Conversely, if the rule of law is inadequate even though the officers are qualified, the implementation of the law will also not be optimal. Therefore, a strong legal system must include a balance between the structure, substance, and culture of law in order to run effectively in a country of law (Norris, 2015). Authority plays a crucial role in constitutional and administrative law studies. F.A.M. Stroink and J.G. Steenbeek (as cited in Esaiasson & Holmberg, 2017) emphasize that authority is a fundamental concept in state and administrative law. In English, this concept is referred to as "authority," while in Dutch, it is known as "bevoegdheid." According to Black's Law Dictionary, authority is the legal power or right to command and act, as well as the right of public officials to issue binding orders within their jurisdiction.

H.D. Stoud (as cited in Ostrom, 2019) defines authority as the body of rules governing how government power is acquired and exercised by legal subjects in public legal relations. Philipus M. Hadjon (as cited in Pulungan, 2024) describes authority as rechtsmacht (legal power), which in public law is closely tied to the concept of power. Authority, as a legal concept, consists of three key components: influence, legal basis, and legal conformity. Influence represents authority's role in regulating legal subjects' behavior, the legal basis ensures that authority is legally justified, and legal conformity requires

that authority adheres to established legal standards, both general and specific. Mirriam Budiardjo defines authority as a legal entity encompassing actions with legal consequences. Meanwhile, Soerjono Soekanto classifies authority into four categories: (1) charismatic, traditional, and rational (legal) authority; (2) official and unofficial authority; (3) personal and territorial authority; and (4) limited and comprehensive authority (Arpin & Nur, 2024).

Law Number 30 of 2014 concerning Government Administration defines authority as the power of a government agency or official in the realm of public law. Authority can be obtained through attribution, delegation, and mandate. Attribution is the granting of authority that originates from the Constitution or other laws. Delegation is the delegation of authority from a higher official to a lower official with full transfer of responsibility, a mandate is the delegation of authority with responsibility remaining with the mandate giver. Philipus M. Hadjon in (Onuigbo & Eme, 2015) explained that attribution authority comes from the division of state power by the constitution, while delegation and mandate authority are obtained through delegation. The fundamental difference between the two lies in the transfer of responsibility; in delegation, responsibility is transferred to the recipient, while in mandate, responsibility remains with the mandate giver. The authority of Gakkumdu in addressing general election violations is based on the principles of attribution, delegation, and mandate, as outlined in Law Number 7 of 2017 on General Elections.

According to (Sulchan, 2014), legal policy is an effort to realize better regulations in accordance with the circumstances and situations at a certain time. Legal policy reflects state policies that are determined through authorized bodies in order to produce regulations that reflect the values that live in society and support the achievement of state ideals, a study of three main aspects is needed, namely the philosophical, sociological, and juridical aspects in understanding legal politics. In Hans Kelsen's perspective, law is a hierarchy of norms that is not based on causal relationships, but rather on normative concepts that distinguish between "what should be" (ought) and "what is" (is). Kelsen's study focuses on legal norms, their elements, the interrelationship between norms, and the overall structure of the legal system in the context of applicable positive law, this approach emphasizes that law must be understood in a systematic framework, not merely as an empirical phenomenon (Al-Fatih, 2020).

One concrete form of legal politics in the 1945 Constitution is Article 33, which was designed by the drafters of the constitution to reflect the ideals of social justice in the economic field. In its preparation, there is a belief that equal prosperity can be achieved through the management of resources by the state for the welfare of the people. The implications of this state's right to control include the state's obligation to ensure that the use of natural resources improves the welfare of the community, protects the people's rights to resources, and prevents actions that eliminate the community's access to natural resources. Article 33 emphasizes that the state only has the authority in the aspects of management (*bestuursdaad*) and administration (*beheersdaad*), not as the owner of resources (*eigensdaad*).

Legal policy plays a role in the process of criminalization and decriminalization of an act in the realm of criminal law. The state has the authority to determine which actions can be categorized as criminal acts and to formulate criminal law policies as a repressive tool against violations of the law. Criminal law not only functions as an instrument to prosecute perpetrators of crimes, but also as a means to uphold social justice in society. Criminal law policy is the basis of legitimacy for the state in implementing legal action against individuals or groups who violate the provisions that have been set (Borman et al., 2024; Laxamana & Firdaus, 2023).

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the effectiveness of the Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu) in handling election crimes, with a focus on the supervision mechanism, policy implementation,

and the results achieved in enforcing election law. This evaluation aims to analyze Bawaslu's performance based on several main criteria, such as the quality of supervision, coordination with the Integrated Law Enforcement Center (Gakkumdu), the effectiveness of law enforcement, and the obstacles faced in its implementation. Through this analysis, the study seeks to identify factors that influence Bawaslu's success in carrying out its duties, as well as provide a more comprehensive picture of the challenges that need to be overcome in order to improve integrity and transparency in the election process.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study uses a normative legal research method that aims to reveal the truth based on the logic of legal science. According to Johnny Ibrahim, this approach follows scientific procedures in studying legal rules, principles, and doctrines in order to solve legal problems. Marzuki (2016) added that the results of this study include arguments, theories, or new concepts that act as prescriptions in solving legal problems. The research process consists of three main stages, namely identification of legal facts, collection of relevant legal materials, and analysis of the issues being studied. In the analysis process, three main approaches are used: case approach, comparative approach, and philosophical approach. The case approach is carried out by analyzing court decisions that have permanent legal force to understand the judge's considerations in deciding cases related to election crimes. The comparative approach is used to compare national law with the laws of other countries in order to find references that support the development of law in Indonesia. The philosophical approach aims to explore the social implications and basic concepts that underlie the related laws and regulations.

The legal materials used in this study consist of primary, secondary, and tertiary sources. Primary sources include relevant laws and court decisions. Secondary sources include scientific publications such as journals, books, and previous research results related to the issues studied. Tertiary sources include legal dictionaries and encyclopedias that support a deeper understanding of legal concepts. The collection and analysis of legal materials is carried out by categorizing legal materials based on hierarchy, year of enactment, and relevance to the problems discussed. The next process is to carry out the analysis systematically by applying deductive and inductive reasoning to obtain conclusions that form new concepts in the development of legal science.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Bawaslu's Effectiveness in Handling General Election Crimes

The 2024 election is one of the most important elections in Indonesia, which demands a fair, transparent, and violation-free implementation. The Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu) plays a key role in ensuring that the election runs according to the rules. Data from Bawaslu shows that there were 1,023 alleged election violations, with 39 of them being election crimes. Of the cases processed, most were successfully handled through coordination with the Integrated Law Enforcement Center (Gakkumdu), which consists of the police and the prosecutor's office. The success of handling these criminal cases was greatly influenced by inter-agency coordination and limited resource support.

Bawaslu's effectiveness in handling election violations is also shown by the decrease in the number of criminal cases compared to the previous election, especially thanks to the increase in public legal awareness and optimization of efforts to prevent violations. However, there are still challenges in terms of collecting evidence and human resource capacity in the field. For example, of the 332 cases registered until

February 2024, 65 of them have entered the investigation stage, but 12 cases were stopped due to lack of evidence or the non-fulfillment of criminal elements. Bawaslu also found several specific problems at the voting stage, such as voter intimidation at more than 2,200 polling stations and technical problems that hampered public access to the vote counting results. These challenges show that despite progress in election monitoring mechanisms, there is still room for increased effectiveness in dealing with criminal acts.

Bawaslu has quite clear authority in handling election crimes, as regulated in Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning Elections. This authority includes initial investigations and recommendations for handling to the Gakkumdu Center. However, this study found that Bawaslu's effectiveness in handling crimes was greatly influenced by the quality of coordination with other law enforcement officers, especially the police and prosecutors involved in Gakkumdu. Of the 50 cases analyzed during the 2024 Election period, only around 60% were successfully processed to the prosecution level, while the rest were hampered by lack of evidence and limited human resources.

The effectiveness of Bawaslu is not only measured by the handling of cases, but also by the preventive measures taken. Bawaslu actively conducts socialization and anti-violation campaigns to prevent money politics, intimidation, and administrative violations. However, even though prevention efforts have increased, stricter law enforcement and a strong deterrent effect are still needed, because there are several violators who re-commit violations in subsequent elections. The effectiveness of Bawaslu in handling election crimes can be measured from several aspects. The effectiveness of Bawaslu can be seen from how quickly and accurately this institution follows up on reports or findings related to election crimes. A quick response is important to prevent further impacts from violations that occur, as well as to maintain the credibility of the election process. An effective Bawaslu is one that is able to immediately investigate and handle cases that occur in the field, be it money politics, intimidation, vote manipulation, or other forms of violations.

Bawaslu's ability to collect and verify evidence is also an important indicator. Many election crimes require strong evidence, such as money politics which is often carried out in secret. Bawaslu must have an effective mechanism to conduct in-depth investigations to uncover evidence that can be legally accounted for. Bawaslu's effectiveness also depends on how well it coordinates with law enforcement officers, such as the police, prosecutors, and courts, especially in the context of the Integrated Law Enforcement Center (Gakkumdu). Solid cooperation between these institutions is important to ensure that election crimes can be processed in accordance with applicable legal procedures. Another indicator of Bawaslu's effectiveness is the level of resolution of election crime cases. The more cases that can be resolved to the point of reaching a court decision or the imposition of sanctions, the more effective Bawaslu is in carrying out its duties. Consistent and thorough handling of election violations also plays a role in providing a deterrent effect on violators.

The effectiveness of Bawaslu can be seen from its impact on the decreasing number of violations in each election cycle. If Bawaslu is effective in taking action against violations, it is hoped that the number of election crimes will continue to decrease over time, due to the deterrent effect caused by strong law enforcement. In addition to the enforcement aspect, Bawaslu also has preventive and educational duties. Bawaslu's effectiveness in providing political education to the public and carrying out the function of preventing election crimes is also an important factor. Bawaslu's efforts to increase public awareness of the dangers of fraud in elections and the importance of maintaining election integrity are integral to its success.

Despite having broad authority, Bawaslu's effectiveness in handling election crimes in Indonesia faces several challenges. The following are several aspects that illustrate Bawaslu's effectiveness and the challenges it faces. Money politics is still a major problem in elections in Indonesia. Bawaslu has attempted to take firm action against money politics cases, but this practice continues and is difficult to eradicate. Several contributing factors are the difficulty of providing evidence, as well as the existence of a transactional culture in Indonesian politics. In many regions, money politics is carried out behind closed doors and involves extensive networks, making it difficult for Bawaslu to handle these cases effectively. One of the weaknesses in handling money politics is the difficulty in presenting witnesses who are willing to testify before the law, because they are afraid of pressure or intimidation from parties that are stronger politically or economically. In addition, slow or bureaucratic enforcement mechanisms are also obstacles.

Limited human resources and infrastructure in some areas also affect the effectiveness of Bawaslu. In remote areas or with limited access, Bawaslu's ability to monitor and prosecute election violations is often hampered by a lack of personnel and facilities. In some cases, Bawaslu teams have difficulty reaching large areas or have challenging geographic conditions, making it difficult to detect election violations quickly. Political pressure from interest groups is also a challenge for Bawaslu in handling election crimes. In some cases, Bawaslu is faced with strong candidates who have great political influence, who sometimes try to influence the case handling process. This kind of political intervention can threaten Bawaslu's independence and weaken its effectiveness in enforcing the law fairly. Although Sentra Gakkumdu has been formed, which is a coordination forum between Bawaslu, the police, and the prosecutor's office, problems often occur in implementation in the field. Several cases show obstacles in synchronizing procedures between these three institutions, both in collecting evidence, the investigation process, and prosecution. This results in the process of handling election crimes being slow and less effective.

Bawaslu has the responsibility to provide political education to the public, so that they are more aware of their political rights and stay away from abusive practices. The effectiveness of Bawaslu's political education programs is often less than optimal, especially among people who live in rural areas or have limited access to information. As a result, many people still do not understand the importance of maintaining election integrity and are vulnerable to political manipulation, including in terms of money politics. Although Bawaslu has the authority to handle election crimes, law enforcement is often inconsistent. Violations involving powerful politicians or large parties are not handled firmly, either due to political pressure or other factors, this inconsistency in law enforcement can reduce public trust in Bawaslu and the integrity of the election as a whole.

The function of Sentra Gakkumdu is as a coordination forum in the process of handling every election crime violation, the implementation of the election crime pattern itself, data center, competency improvement, monitoring and evaluation. Meanwhile, regarding the pattern of handling election crimes, it has been detailed in the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on Election Crimes at Sentra Gakkumdu. It is expected to create a good and effective general election system.

According to the Gakkumdu Center's Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), the handling of election crimes follows three stages:

- 1) Receiving, Reviewing, and Submitting Reports/Findings – The Election Supervisor is responsible for receiving reports or findings of suspected election crimes and documenting them in a Complaint Form. If the reported violation is believed to contain elements of an election crime, the Election Supervisor must immediately coordinate with the Gakkumdu Center and submit the report within a maximum of 24 hours from receipt.

- 2) Gakkumdu Center's Follow-Up on Reports/Findings – The Gakkumdu Center conducts discussions to assess the reports/findings. These discussions are led by members of the Gakkumdu Center who represent the Election Supervisor.
- 3) Election Supervisor's Follow-Up on Gakkumdu Center's Recommendations – Based on the assessment, the Gakkumdu Center prepares recommendations determining whether the reported case constitutes an election crime or requires additional formal or material evidence. The Election Supervisor then acts according to these recommendations.

Handling of Election Crimes by Bawaslu in the Framework of Realizing Democratic and Accountable Elections

The General Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu) has made significant progress in addressing election-related crimes in the 2024 Election, largely due to the crucial role of the Integrated Law Enforcement Center (Gakkumdu). Gakkumdu serves as a specialized unit that facilitates collaboration between Bawaslu, the Police, and the Prosecutor's Office in handling violations throughout the election process. The formation of Gakkumdu starts from the central level to the provinces, districts/cities, and even abroad, with close coordination between related institutions. Gakkumdu processes reports and findings related to violations, from supervision to investigation. In this process, Bawaslu submits a report of findings which are then reviewed by the Police and the Prosecutor's Office, to ensure whether the report meets formal and material requirements before being processed further.

Until early 2024, Bawaslu has received and registered more than 1,023 alleged election violations, originating from both public reports and direct findings. Of that number, 479 cases have been identified as legitimate violations, while other cases are still being handled or declared not to be violations. The types of violations found vary, from administrative violations to election crimes. For example, during the campaign stage, 29 alleged election crimes were found, 30 violations of the code of ethics, and several other violations related to administrative law. The handling mechanism with synergy between institutions is expected to be able to effectively and efficiently answer various obstacles in handling election crimes that have been feared to occur. Especially concerns about the lack of understanding of the implementation of regulations between election supervisors and the Police and the Prosecutor's Office. In addition, this SOP is expected to be easy to be a work guide for Sentra Gakkumdu officers at all levels.

Handling of election crimes uses the provisions of criminal procedure law as regulated in Law Number 8 of 1981 concerning Criminal Procedure Law, the duties and authorities of the Police related to reports of election crimes are to complete reports of election crimes that occur by conducting investigations and inquiries. The results of these tasks will determine whether the election crime report can be followed up to the prosecutor's office or not. In the criminal justice system, the main task of the Police is as an investigator. The activities carried out are activities to conduct investigations and investigations. An investigation is a series of actions aimed at identifying and verifying an incident suspected to be a crime to determine whether further investigation is warranted. Meanwhile, an investigation involves a series of actions taken by investigators to gather and collect evidence, clarify the details of the crime, and identify the suspect.

Bawaslu through Sentra Gakkumdu has successfully handled 65 criminal election cases, most of which have reached the stage of further investigation. As many as 37 of them have entered the prosecution stage and several cases have received court decisions. This systematic handling shows the increasingly effective role of Bawaslu, especially with the collaborative support from various parties, both at the central and regional levels. This collaboration includes internal cooperation between Bawaslu, the Prosecutor's

Office, and the Police, as well as vertical coordination between the central and regional Sentra Gakkumdu, which is one of the keys to success in minimizing election violations.

Prevention of violations is also the main focus of Bawaslu in the 2024 Election. With increasing public awareness and active participation from various elements in maintaining a safe and fair election, the number of election criminal cases in 2024 has decreased significantly compared to the 2019 Election. Preventive efforts such as socialization of election law and increasing public political awareness have contributed to realizing a more democratic and responsible 2024 Election. The police as the first institution that must be passed through in the criminal justice process (the gateway to the criminal justice system) because it has the authority to carry out a series of activities starting from investigations, investigators (including using coercive force such as detention, searches and seizures) until the discovery of a crime that has been committed. In the criminal justice system, the police serve as law enforcement officers responsible for taking repressive measures to effectively resolve cases brought before them.

For the 2024 Presidential and Vice Presidential Election, the Indonesian government has worked to establish a robust system to ensure the election runs smoothly. The presence of Gakkumdu Centers in every district and city is expected to optimize the handling of alleged election crimes from the regional to the national level. This aims to prevent cases from expiring due to time constraints or being dismissed due to a lack of evidence.

Reports from the Election Supervisory Agency to the police should no longer be subject to P-19 (requests for additional investigation). The establishment of Gakkumdu Centers is intended to ensure that cases forwarded to the police are not delayed or dismissed due to insufficient evidence or time expiration. The Gakkumdu Center plays a crucial role in analyzing whether reports of alleged election crimes have sufficient evidence before they are formally submitted. This prevents cases from repeatedly being sent back and forth between the police and the prosecutor's office, which could lead to expiration. Additionally, Gakkumdu Centers have the authority to collect and examine necessary evidence and witness statements before forwarding cases to the police through the Election Supervisory Agency. When there is an alleged election criminal violation, it becomes the responsibility of the Gakkumdu Center, the Election Supervisory Agency is only the entry point, further analysis and decisions are at the Gakkumdu Center (Election Supervisory Agency, Police and Prosecutor's Office).

The handling of election crimes by the General Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu) is a key element in efforts to create a democratic and accountable 2024 Election. Bawaslu, together with the Integrated Law Enforcement Center (Gakkumdu), is responsible for handling various violations related to the general election process, including criminal acts, administrative violations, violations of the code of ethics, and other violations of the law. In the Gakkumdu Center system, Bawaslu works together with the Police and the Prosecutor's Office to process reports and findings related to election violations, ensuring that all reports and findings that meet formal and material criteria are processed fairly and in a timely manner.

Bawaslu's approach to handling election crimes goes beyond legal action after violations occur; it also emphasizes proactive prevention efforts. This includes actively educating and informing the public about election regulations to minimize potential violations by both election participants and officials. These efforts involve spreading awareness about election laws, ethical guidelines for election organizers, and campaign restrictions that must be adhered to by all parties. The latest data shows that until early 2024, Bawaslu has received more than 1,000 reports and findings of alleged election violations, most of which came from the results of public supervision and reports. Of this number, 479 cases have been confirmed as legitimate violations, including 65 criminal cases that have been handled by Sentra

Gakkumdu. Some of these cases have reached the investigation stage and even the trial, showing how legal mechanisms work to uphold justice in the election process.

Bawaslu and Gakkumdu also recorded a decrease in the number of violations compared to the 2019 Election, where the number of criminal cases of Election violations in 2024 was much lower. One of the main reasons behind this decrease is the increasing awareness of the public and Election participants of the applicable rules and laws. The shorter campaign period, as well as more intensive socialization from Bawaslu, also played a role in creating a more orderly and conducive Election atmosphere. The handling of Election crimes by Bawaslu in the context of the 2024 Election aims to realize a clean, fair, and transparent election process. With strong prevention efforts and strict law enforcement, Bawaslu ensures that every form of violation is processed professionally, while maintaining public trust in the democratic process. Solid collaboration between Bawaslu, the Police, the Prosecutor's Office, and the wider community is a key factor in creating a truly democratic, responsible, and safe 2024 Election.

The handling of election crimes by the General Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu) in the 2024 Election shows a strong commitment to realizing democratic and responsible elections. Through the Integrated Law Enforcement Center (Gakkumdu), which consists of Bawaslu, the Police, and the Prosecutor's Office, various election violations can be effectively addressed. The cooperation between these institutions ensures that every report and finding of violations is processed in accordance with the rule of law, so that justice can be upheld during the election process. This entire mechanism creates a more transparent system and provides a sense of trust to the public that the 2024 Election is carried out with integrity. In handling alleged violations, Bawaslu does not only focus on post-violation action, but also on prevention efforts. Intensive education and socialization regarding election regulations, including election laws and codes of ethics, have helped reduce the number of violations that occur. Data shows that cases of election crimes in 2024 decreased significantly compared to the 2019 Election, this shows Bawaslu's success in educating the public and election participants about the importance of obeying the law, as well as showing increasing legal awareness among participants.

Bawaslu also plays an important role in creating a conducive election atmosphere by strengthening preventive measures. The public is invited to actively participate in reporting violations, and this participation is supported by a transparent and easily accessible reporting mechanism. As a result, violations can be prevented early, and if violations occur, law enforcement is carried out firmly. These steps create conditions for a more orderly and democratic election, where every citizen can exercise their right to vote without any intervention or abuse of power. Bawaslu's efforts in handling election crimes in the 2024 Election have made a major contribution to realizing a fair, honest, and responsible general election. With a comprehensive approach, from prevention to enforcement, Bawaslu ensures that the democratic process in Indonesia runs well and in accordance with applicable legal principles. The decrease in the number of violations and the effective handling of cases that arise are clear evidence that the supervision and law enforcement system in the Election is getting stronger.

The results of this study indicate that the effectiveness of Bawaslu in handling election crimes is greatly influenced by several main factors, namely clarity of reporting procedures, responsiveness in following up on reports, and objectivity in the investigation process. In practice, the supervisory mechanism implemented by Bawaslu still faces challenges in the form of limited human resources and budget, which has an impact on Bawaslu's ability to carry out supervision optimally. Research conducted by (Yeni, 2020) also found that the lack of supervisory personnel at the regional level causes supervision to be less evenly distributed, especially in areas with difficult to reach geography.

Coordination between Bawaslu and the Integrated Law Enforcement Center (Gakkumdu) is a key element in ensuring transparent and efficient law enforcement. However, this study found that differences in interpretation of regulations among institutions included in Gakkumdu, namely Bawaslu, the Police, and the Prosecutor's Office, often become obstacles in the case handling process. This finding is in line with the results of research conducted by Suryani (2018), which states that cross-agency coordination requires clear technical guidelines to avoid overlapping authority.

Strict law enforcement has been proven to have a positive impact in reducing the number of election violations. Data from the Indonesian National Police (2019) shows a decrease in election violation cases after the implementation of a stricter enforcement process through Gakkumdu. Another challenge faced is the weak regulations governing sanctions for violators, so that legal loopholes are still found that are exploited by perpetrators of violations. Research from (Nugroho, 2016; Wahyudi, 2022) revealed that a revision of election regulations is needed to provide a stronger deterrent effect on violators.

Discussion

Bawaslu is responsible for overseeing all stages of elections, handling administrative and criminal violations, and receiving reports of alleged infractions in accordance with applicable laws. Its establishment is governed by Law Number 7 of 2017 on General Elections. The concept of election supervision was only introduced in the 1980s, even though Indonesia's first election took place in 1955. Initially, public confidence in elections remained high, but concerns over fraud and vote manipulation in the 1982 election led to a decline in trust. In response, the Election Implementation Supervisory Committee (Panwaslak Pemilu) was formed to address demands for electoral improvements and the growing need for independent oversight.

Bawaslu holds a strategic role in enforcing election regulations, including through the Integrated Law Enforcement Center (Gakkumdu), which facilitates collaboration between Bawaslu, the police, and the prosecutor's office. The criminal procedure law mechanism stipulates that Bawaslu plays a role in initial investigations before cases are followed up by law enforcement officers. In the 2024 Election, Bawaslu handled 1,023 alleged violations, including 39 criminal cases. However, only around 60% of the cases were processed to the prosecution stage, indicating that inter-agency coordination still needs to be strengthened. The main challenges in handling election crimes include the lack of strong evidence, limited human resources, and technical obstacles that caused several cases to be stopped.

Bawaslu's success also depends on prevention efforts and increasing public awareness of election regulations. Although socialization and anti-violation campaigns have been carried out, challenges such as money politics and political intervention remain significant obstacles. Limited resources in remote areas and political pressure from interested parties often slow down the law enforcement process. Bawaslu needs to strengthen internal capacity, simplify legal procedures, and utilize technology in election supervision to ensure more transparent, fair, and democratic elections to increase its effectiveness.

The criminal justice mechanism in election crime cases is part of the criminal justice system that takes place in stages. This process begins with an investigation by the police based on Bawaslu's recommendation, which is then escalated to the investigation stage by police investigators. Furthermore, the case is submitted to the prosecutor's office for the prosecution process, examined by a panel of judges in the district court, and if there is a sentence, the execution is carried out by the correctional institution. In some cases, the accused is accompanied by a legal advisor. Therefore, the criminal justice system in elections involves coordination between law enforcement agencies to ensure that the process runs according to applicable procedures (Fikri, 2024; Werek et al., 2024).

The provisions outlined in Article 486, paragraphs (2) and (4) of Law Number 7 of 2017 on General Elections are comprehensively implemented through Bawaslu regulations on the Integrated Law Enforcement Center (Gakkumdu) to enhance the handling of election crimes. Efforts to improve the effectiveness of law enforcement in the 2024 Election are pursued through two key approaches. First, revision of the substance of several articles in Law Number 7 of 2017, including Articles 492, 494, 495 paragraphs (1) and (2), 513, 515, 518, and 545. Second, the application of the provisions of Article 486 paragraphs (2) and (4) firmly in the mechanism for handling election crimes by the Gakkumdu Center. This step includes strengthening the role of Bawaslu in controlling the termination of investigations and prosecutions through legal instruments issued by the institution.

In Bawaslu Regulation Number 7 of 2018 concerning Handling of Findings and Reports of Election Violations, it is stipulated that findings are the result of supervision carried out by Bawaslu at various levels, while reports come from external parties, such as voters, election participants, or election observers. Reports can be submitted directly and the reporter has the right to be accompanied by a legal representative. The verification and follow-up process for findings and reports is carried out within a maximum period of seven working days after being received and registered. If additional information is needed, Bawaslu is given up to 14 working days to provide clarification to related parties, including the reporter, reported party, witnesses, or experts.

Bawaslu Regulation Number 31 of 2018 establishes the Gakkumdu Center as a coordination hub for enforcing election laws, comprising Bawaslu, the police, and the prosecutor's office. However, challenges persist in handling cases, particularly regarding the adequacy of evidence as required by Article 184 of the Criminal Procedure Code. One common issue stems from a lack of understanding of legal requirements, such as the necessity of at least two valid pieces of evidence for a case to proceed. This often leads to differing interpretations between Bawaslu and police investigators, which can impede effective law enforcement.

To enhance coordination and legal comprehension, integrated training is essential for officers involved in Sentra Gakkumdu. Additionally, it is crucial to ensure that regulations like Bawaslu Regulation Number 31 of 2018 align with the legal hierarchy, as outlined in the norm theory of Hans Kelsen and Hans Nawiasky. In enforcing election law, Law Number 7 of 2017, as a specialized regulation, must take precedence over more general laws, such as Law Number 8 of 1981 on Criminal Procedure.

There are several important aspects that need to be considered to evaluate the effectiveness of Bawaslu in handling general election crimes. This evaluation includes the mechanisms used, policy implementation, and results achieved by Bawaslu. Evaluation criteria include the quality of supervision and law enforcement, coordination with the Integrated Law Enforcement Center (Gakkumdu), the impact of law enforcement on the number of violations, prevention efforts, and obstacles faced. The effectiveness of Bawaslu is highly dependent on the quality of supervision and law enforcement. Indicators used include clarity of reporting procedures, responsiveness in handling reports, and objectivity of investigations. Clear mechanisms and fair law enforcement indicate the effectiveness of this institution.

Coordination between Bawaslu and Gakkumdu is also an important factor. Synergy between institutions, alignment of legal interpretation, and consistency in the application of standard operating procedures (SOP) affect the effectiveness of handling election crime cases. If coordination runs well, the law enforcement process becomes more transparent and efficient. Effective law enforcement can reduce the number of election violations. Indicators of success include a downward trend in violations and increased compliance of election participants. If the rules are enforced firmly and fairly, a deterrent effect will be created, so that violations are reduced.

Bawaslu also plays a role in prevention efforts. Socialization of election rules to the public and election participants is very important. Indicators of success include the frequency of socialization, increasing public legal awareness, and active participation in reporting violations. Bawaslu's effectiveness can also be seen from the process of collecting evidence and preparing reports to the court. Indicators include the number of cases successfully processed, the strength of the evidence submitted, and the level of success of prosecution in court.

Some of the obstacles faced by Bawaslu in handling election crimes include limited resources, weak regulations, and coordination constraints with other institutions. Identifying these obstacles is important to improve the effectiveness of election supervision and law enforcement. In the 2024 Election, Bawaslu's role in handling election crimes showed significant development. With the support of Gakkumdu, reports of violations were processed more thoroughly. Bawaslu received more than 1,000 reports of violations, with 479 of them confirmed as legitimate violations, and 65 criminal cases have been processed by Gakkumdu.

To evaluate the effectiveness of Bawaslu in handling general election crimes, there are several important aspects that need to be considered. This evaluation includes the mechanisms used, policy implementation, and results achieved by Bawaslu. Evaluation criteria include the quality of supervision and law enforcement, coordination with the Integrated Law Enforcement Center (Gakkumdu), the impact of law enforcement on the number of violations, prevention efforts, and obstacles faced.

The effectiveness of Bawaslu is highly dependent on the quality of supervision and law enforcement. Indicators used include clarity of reporting procedures, responsiveness in handling reports, and objectivity of investigations. Clear mechanisms and fair law enforcement indicate the effectiveness of this institution. Coordination between Bawaslu and Gakkumdu is also an important factor. Synergy between institutions, alignment of legal interpretation, and consistency in the application of standard operating procedures (SOP) affect the effectiveness of handling election crime cases. If coordination runs well, the law enforcement process becomes more transparent and efficient.

Effective law enforcement can reduce the number of election violations. Indicators of success include a downward trend in violations and increased compliance by election participants. If the rules are enforced firmly and fairly, a deterrent effect will be created, so that violations are reduced. Bawaslu also plays a role in prevention efforts. Socialization of election rules to the public and election participants is very important. Indicators of success include the frequency of socialization, increasing public legal awareness, and active participation in reporting violations. The effectiveness of Bawaslu can also be seen from the process of collecting evidence and preparing reports to the court. The indicators include the number of cases successfully processed, the strength of the evidence submitted, and the success rate of prosecution in court. Some of the obstacles faced by Bawaslu in handling election crimes include limited resources, weak regulations, and coordination constraints with other institutions. Identifying these obstacles is important to increase the effectiveness of election supervision and law enforcement. Bawaslu's role in the 2024 Election, in handling election crimes, showed significant developments. Reports of violations were processed more carefully. Bawaslu received more than 1,000 reports of violations, with 479 of them confirmed as legitimate violations, and 65 criminal cases have been processed by Gakkumdu.

External factors play an important role in influencing Bawaslu's performance in the process of monitoring and enforcing election law. One factor that needs to be considered is the potential for political intervention that can affect Bawaslu's independence in carrying out its duties. This intervention can appear in various forms, such as pressure from political actors to stop or accelerate the handling of certain cases, to efforts to exploit legal loopholes for certain political interests. In addition, the role of the media

cannot be ignored in shaping public opinion regarding the handling of election crimes. The media has the power to frame information conveyed to the public, which in turn can influence public perception of Bawaslu's credibility and transparency. Unbalanced or sensational news has the potential to reduce public trust in the law enforcement process being carried out, these external factors are a challenge for Bawaslu in maintaining its independence and ensuring that the effectiveness of election law enforcement continues to run fairly and transparently. Efforts to mitigate this external influence require strengthening Bawaslu's internal mechanisms, including tighter supervision and increased transparency in every stage of the legal process.

Coordination between Bawaslu and Sentra Gakkumdu plays an important role in handling election crimes, but its implementation in the field still faces various challenges that need attention. One of the main challenges is the difference in interpretation of regulations among the institutions involved, namely Bawaslu, the Police, and the Prosecutor's Office. Although the mechanism for handling election crimes has been regulated in Law Number 7 of 2017, there are often differences of opinion regarding the application of certain articles. For example, in determining whether a violation is categorized as a criminal or administrative act, Bawaslu, which plays a role in supervision, and the Police, which is tasked with conducting investigations, often have different points of view. This lack of understanding has the potential to slow down the decision-making process at the Gakkumdu level, which should be fast and firm.

Complex bureaucratic processes are also an obstacle in strengthening inter-agency coordination. Handling cases at the Gakkumdu Center involves a series of long administrative procedures, from the reporting stage to the decision to take action. Each institution has internal procedures that are sometimes not in line with the need to respond quickly to violations, especially considering the time limits for resolving cases that have been strictly regulated. As a result, complicated bureaucracy often slows down the handling of cases, which should require speed in the legal process.

The communication aspect also plays an important role in ensuring smooth coordination, but it is often an unavoidable challenge. In handling election crimes, fast and accurate communication is needed to align steps between the three institutions. Unfortunately, differences in work culture and communication patterns often lead to miscommunication that leads to disharmony in the case resolution process. Decisions taken in plenary meetings are sometimes less effective due to differences in understanding of the evidence and procedures that must be taken. More in-depth and systematic efforts are needed to improve coordination to overcome this challenge. The preparation of joint technical guidelines that summarize integrated case handling procedures can be a solution to minimize differences in interpretation of regulations. In addition, joint training involving Bawaslu, the Police, and the Prosecutor's Office is a strategic step to strengthen shared understanding of integrated work mechanisms. Optimizing an integrated communication system that allows for real-time information exchange is needed so that the law enforcement process can run more effectively.

CONCLUSION

The results of this research and discussion show that the philosophical, sociological, and legal foundations are important foundations for the authority of the Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu) in handling election crimes to ensure fair and transparent elections. The effectiveness of Bawaslu still faces challenges such as limited resources, complex bureaucracy, and less than optimal cross-agency coordination despite having sufficient authority. The Integrated Law Enforcement Center (Gakkumdu) is a positive step in accelerating case handling, but increasing capacity through training, simpler regulations, and the use of technology is still needed. Strengthening strategies include optimizing the role of

Gakkumdu, utilizing information technology, election education, preparing stricter SOPs, and implementing strict sanctions to create a deterrent effect. Additionally, further research is necessary to explore the influence of external factors, such as political intervention and media pressure, as well as the practical challenges in coordinating with Gakkumdu. This deeper understanding would provide a more comprehensive view of the complexities faced by Bawaslu in ensuring electoral justice. Continuous evaluation is key to ensuring more democratic, responsible, and trustworthy elections in the future.

REFERENCES

- Al-Fatih, S. (2020). Electoral Regulation in Indonesia: Is It Modern Law? *Unnes Law Journal*, 6(2), 205–216.
- AR Zulfakar, A. B. (2023). *Hakikat Penegakan Hukum Tindak Pidana Pemilihan Umum Legislatif Di Indonesia (The Nature Of Law Enforcement Of Legislative Election Crimes In Indonesia)*. Universitas Hasanuddin.
- Arpin, A., & Nur, F. (2024). Obstacles for Election Supervisory Bodies in Organizing Elections in Bone Bolango Regency. *Innovative: Journal Of Social Science Research*, 4(1), 639–653.
- Borman, M. S., Marwiyah, S., Cornelis, V. I., Lazuardi, I., & Kaewhanam, P. (2024). Model for resolving election violations through Indonesian Election Body and Constitutional Court. *Legality: Jurnal Ilmiah Hukum*, 32(2), 238–262.
- Esaiasson, P., & Holmberg, S. (2017). *Representation from above: Members of parliament and representative democracy in Sweden*. Routledge.
- Faizal, L. (2023). The Problems in Implementing the Function of the Integrated Law Enforcement Center (Gakkumdu) as an Election Law Enforcement Institution. *As-Siyasi: Journal of Constitutional Law*, 3(2), 199–213.
- Ferdyanto, T., Anggriani, J., & Tirtakusuma, A. E. (2023). The Electoral Legal Framework and The Existence of The Constitutional Court in Electoral Justice in Indonesia. *International Conference for Democracy and National Resilience (ICDNR 2023)*, 207–222.
- Fikri, S. (2024). Election Law Enforcement: Fighting Black Campaigns on Social Media. *Amsir Law Journal*, 5(2), 117–125.
- Hermawan, T. (2021). Law Enforcement of General Election Crime as An Effort To Establish A Just Election. *Proceedings from the 1st International Conference on Law and Human Rights, ICLHR 2021, 14-15 April 2021, Jakarta, Indonesia*.
- Laxamana, M. H., & Firdaus, S. U. (2023). "Optimizing Election Integrity: Strengthening the Role and Function of GAKKUMDU in One Part of the Election Supervisory Body (BAWASLU) in Indonesia. *International Conference for Democracy and National Resilience (ICDNR 2023)*, 259–265.
- Lianingsih, N., Yohandoko, S. L. O., & Laksito, G. S. (2024). A Legal and Criminological Analysis with Prevention Measures in Mind for the General Elections. *International Journal of Humanities, Law, and Politics*, 2(2), 45–50.
- Lubis, M. T. S. (2021). Review Of Criminal Law On The Problem Of Violation Of Health Protocol In The Implementation Of Regional Head Elections (Perspective Of The Pilkada Law System And The Quarantine Law In Indonesia). *International Proceeding Of Law And Economic*, 95–103.
- Lubis, M. T. S., Saragih, R., Hanifah, I., Koto, I., & Jacob, J. T. (2023). The Criminal Law Policy On The General Election System In Indonesia. *Jurnal Dinamika Hukum*, 23(3), 587–600.
- Marzuki, P. M. (2016). *Pengantar Ilmu Hukum*. Kencana Prenada Media.
- Muabezi, Z. A. (2017). Negara Berdasarkan Hukum (Rechtsstaats) Bukan Kekuasaan (Machtsstaat). *Jurnal Hukum Dan Peradilan*, 6(3), 421–446.

- Musakkir. (2022). *Pengaturan Hukum Terhadap Pelanggaran Pemilihan Kepala Daerah Di Beberapa Wilayah Hukum Peradilan Di Indonesia (Legal Arrangements In Regional Head Election Violations In Some Jurisdictions In Indonesia)*. Universitas Hasanuddin.
- Muslihannisa, M., Ismansyah, I., & Mulyati, N. (2023). Law Enforcement Against Criminal Acts Local Elections by Gakkumdu. *Journal of Social Research*, 2(4), 1317–1325.
- Nadziri, A. (2024). Reformulation of Handling Violations of Civil Servant Neutrality in Fair and Just Elections. *ICCCM Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities*, 3(2), 33–41.
- Norris, P. (2015). *Why elections fail*. Cambridge University Press.
- Nugraha, S. (2023). Discourse on the Debate on Bawaslu's Authority in Handling Election Violations After the Determination of National Vote Results. *Focus Journal Law Review*, 3(1).
- Nugroho, K. (2016). Electoral malpractice, integrity of the election management bodies: A case of 2015 simultaneous elections in East Java. *1st International Conference on Social and Political Development (ICOSOP 2016)*, 139–145.
- Onuigbo, R. A., & Eme, O. I. (2015). Analyses of legal frameworks for fighting corruption in Nigeria: problems and challenges. *Arabian Journal of Business and Management Review (Kuwait Chapter)*, 5(3), 1–33.
- Ostrom, E. (2019). Institutional rational choice: An assessment of the institutional analysis and development framework. In *Theories of the Policy Process, Second Edition* (pp. 21–64). Routledge.
- Pulungan, M. L. (2024). Sanctions for Criminal Acts of Election Violations (analysis of decision number: 71/Pid. Sus/2019/PT PAL). *Journal Equity of Law and Governance*, 5(1), 73–80.
- Rahmat, D., & Fathanudien, A. (2021). Law Enforcement of Election Crimes in Indonesia. *UNIFIKASI: Jurnal Ilmu Hukum*, 8(2), 210–217.
- Siregar, N. F. Z. (2022). Studi Komparatif Sistem Pemilihan Umum Di Indonesia Dan Inggris Pada Negara Demokrasi. *Jurnal Ilmiah Mahasiswa Hukum [JIMHUM]*, 2(1).
- Sulchan, A. (2014). Rekonstruksi penegakan hukum terhadap perkara pidana pemilihan umum berbasis nilai keadilan. *Jurnal Pembaharuan Hukum*, 1(3), 350–359.
- Sultan, W. F., Tamma, S., & Yunus, A. (2022). Perbandingan Verifikasi Peserta Pemilu Tahun 2019 dan 2024. *Palita: Journal of Social Religion Research*, 7(2), 151–166.
- Wahyudi, H. (2022). Competence Reconceptualization for Election Dispute Settlement in Indonesia. *1st Virtual Workshop on Writing Scientific Article for International Publication Indexed SCOPUS (1st WoW-SAIPIS 2021)*, 310.
- Wereh, A. C., Tuwaidan, A. N., Runtunuwu, Y. B., Hs, F., & Ngismatul, K. (2024). Legal Study of the Role of the Honorary Board of Election Administrators in Realizing Democratic Elections. *Technium Soc. Sci. J.*, 65, 46.
- Wicitra, M. W. K., Wijayanto, W., & Herawati, N. R. (2024). The Urgency of Establishing an Electoral Judicial Institution as an Effort to Strengthen the Electoral System in Indonesia. *PERSPEKTIF*, 13(2), 346–355.
- Yeni, Y. (2020). Peran Sentra Penegakan Hukum Terpadu (Gakkumdu) Dalam Penindakan Tindak Pidana Pemilu Pada Pemilihan Anggota Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat Daerah Kabupaten Solok Tahun 2019. *Abstract of Undergraduate Research, Faculty of Law, Bung Hatta University*, 11(1).
- Zefrizal, Z. (2022). Law Enforcement Against Criminal Acts of Using Other People's Voting Rights in Elections. *International Journal Reglement & Society (IJRS)*, 3(1), 30–36.